

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, the pending claims are: claims 6-13, 15-18, 20, and 25-41. The Office Action dated June 17, 2009 has been carefully considered. Claims 15-17 and 41 have been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1-5, 14, 19 and 21-24 were previously canceled. The Applicants explicitly reserved the right to file divisional applications directed towards the embodiments of claims 1-5, 14, 19 and 21-24. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above Amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated June 17, 2009, the Examiner required election of one of the following species of drill guide assemblies:

Species (1): Figs. 1 and 8;

Species (2): Figs. 9 and 10; and

Species (3): Fig. 11

SPECIES OF ELECTION

Applicants provisionally elect Species 3 – as depicted in Fig. 11 - for prosecution in this application. Applicants explicitly reserve the right to file divisional applications to protect Species (1) and (2).

Applicant believes that pending claims 6-13, 18, 20, and 25-40 are readable on the

elected species. Claims 15-17 and 41 have been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species. Applicants provisionally elect Species (3) with the understanding that the claims shall be restricted to this species if no claim that is generic to Species (1) and (2) is finally held to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the above-listed amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed due for this submission. If, however, the Commissioner determines otherwise, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may now or hereafter be due in this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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